

APPROVED: Meeting No. 22-81

ATTEST: *Helen M. Heneghan*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
MEETING NO. 18-81

May 13, 1981

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in work session in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, Maryland at Vinson Street, Rockville, Maryland, on Wednesday, May 13, at 8:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor William E. Hanna, Jr.

Councilman Steve Abrams
(Arrived at 9:30 p.m.)

Councilwoman Phyllis Fordham

Councilman John Freeland

Councilman John Tyner

The Mayor in the Chair.

In attendance: City Manager Larry Blick; City Clerk Helen Heneghan.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM

Police Activities

The Mayor and Council continued the discussion on public safety from the previous meeting. Councilwoman Fordham suggested the police get their full compliment of 26 and incorporate a neighborhood foot patrol. Councilman Tyner questioned the source of the money and suggested it come from the Targets of Opportunity. He said any new positions should be added with specific purpose and it is his feeling the two could be added, dedicated to burglary and then when the neighborhood watch system comes with a computer all would be in readiness. Councilman Freeland agreed that there should be a full 26 at all times and two more should be added to the burglary section. He also suggested neighborhood visibility as a priority but no amount to the police should exceed \$70,000 to \$75,000. Mayor Hanna said neighborhood deterrent activities are extremely important and so are the visible presence. He asked that a program be instituted whereby youngsters will be picked up on the street during school hours who are not in school. They would first be taken home then taken back to school and the program should be heavily publicized. He would go along with the increase of two people. He would like to see the program evaluated every 90 days. He said at this time he is much more interested in visibility than in follow up of an investigation. Mayor Hanna asked that a meeting be called to explain the program on the pick up of truant children and include at the meeting principals and some PTA representatives. Councilwoman Fordham said she is comfortable with the instructions that have been given.

HUMAN RESOURCES PROGRAM

Senior Citizens Activities

Councilman Tyner suggested that the Mayor and Council pay \$7 toward the Senior Gala that is held each year. The Council agreed to place this on the Wish List. Mayor Hanna asked Mr. Olson what progress he had made working on a senior center now that the Woodley Gardens School may be

Senior Citizens Activities con't

available. Mr. Olson described the facilities and renovations that would be needed and the cost of programming that would amount to about \$45,000 for the fiscal year. Some of the revenues could be made by the senior citizens themselves. He discussed alternatives with the Council for heating and cooling utilities and maintenance. It is his feeling that the annual cost of establishing it will be \$80,000. Councilwoman Fordham said she is opposed to such an expense. Mayor Hanna favored it. Councilman Tyner asked for the start up cost and the annual maintenance cost. The City Manager said maintenance would be \$80,000. The start up cost would be avoided since the staff is presently in place and the City would apply for an open space grant for renovations. Councilwoman Fordham said she would prefer to see a mixed use for the building. A children's day care would be a good idea. Councilwoman Fordham asked the staff about the Maryvale Nutrition Program. Mr. Drayton explained the main problem with the program is the lack of time to do anything other than move in and out for a meal. It has been found that it is best to combine nutrition with some type of social but both cannot be done at Maryvale so there is just time to eat. Councilman Freeland said he applauds the idea of a senior center. He sees the potential for making it non-tax supported. Councilman Tyner said he would support it if it could be done without a tax increase. Councilman Abrams questioned whether the choice of Woodley would be the most appropriate due to its location on the fringe of the City. Mr. Olson agreed it is not centrally located, but he said a new building could not be constructed for a senior center and although Broome is larger, it is not as ideal. Mr. Abrams said he would like to have some demographics of the senior population or what is anticipated as a senior population within the next 10 years. He said since Mayor Hanna and Councilman Freeland are supporting the idea, he will go along with their support in order to keep the issue open and place it on the Wish List for further consideration, but at the present time, he would like more information. Mayor Hanna instructed the staff to place it on the Wish List. Since the Planning Commission was present, he asked if they had any comments on the matter. Mr. Pritchard, speaking for the Planning Commission, said that the Senior Center could have an adverse impact on the neighborhood if the use of the building as a school is changed. Mayor Hanna said ordinarily he could agree, but in this instance the decision to no longer use it as a school was made two years ago and it has not been an elementary school since that time. The planning aspects of a decision are very real, but the senior center decision is left solely with the Mayor and Council. Councilman Abrams asked the neighborhood's sentiments. Mr. Freeland said at the time the school closing was announced, the neighborhood said they would like no commercial use or use as a teenage hangout. The least objectionable use to the neighborhood would be for a day care or a senior facility. Councilman Abrams asked if the City can earmark funds in the budget for a senior center with no special location and somewhere along the line make the decision as to where, with no loss of grants, etc. Staff explained that this is the only school that is available at this time. Councilwoman Fordham asked the number of repairs needed. Mr. Olson said the school is in extremely good condition. Councilwoman Fordham said she would challenge the supporters of the idea to find a way to make it self-supporting. The item was placed on the Wish List.

Human Rights Activities

Councilwoman Fordham said she is concerned with problems in the City and a return to racism and sexism through conversation, jokes, etc. The Council discussed this matter. Mayor Hanna asked why only the Human Rights Commission has the use of funds. The staff explained it was used for the promotion of Martin Luther King's holiday. Councilman Tyner suggested that more direction needs to be given to the commission. Mayor Hanna agreed and said it seems they look on their role as only finding discrimination when in fact they should devote a major share of their time to education and promoting a type of positive activity within the city. He said it is quiet obvious that the turnout for the Martin Luther King day is not sufficient. Councilwoman Fordham suggested that maybe the City's joining with the County in their celebration would spread the word and cause a better turnout. Mayor Hanna said that might prove fruitful at the same time he suggested that the Human Rights Commission go out and talk with the various civic associations to promote the positive aspects of Human Rights. Councilman Tyner said possibly different criteria should be used when vacancies occur on the Human Rights Commission. Mr. Drayton said a personal interview would help and instructions to new applicants as to the idea of their going out and meeting with people. Councilman Tyner suggested a full time investigator might be used by the Human Rights Department since it would seem that the City specifically needs to get into the field of education. Councilman Abrams asked how much duplication exists. Possibly, the human rights activities should be integrated to all portions of the city instead of being a separate unit. Councilwoman Fordham said she does not want the Human Rights Commission dealing with groups such as the Klu Klux Klan or Nazis. That is more of a police matter. There was no support for Councilman Tyner's suggestion of a full-time investigator. Mayor Hanna suggested that the Human Rights Commission be put on notice that it is the Mayor and Council's intention that a program be instituted that can come back to the Council in 30 days showing a good education program and some future objectives. Council agreed to this.

Youth Services

Council discussed the worth of the youth employment program. Councilman Abrams asked if there are any statistics on its demonstrated benefits. (At this point, Councilwoman Fordham left the meeting.) Mr. Drayton said he did not have any but they will be built in this year. The Council favored continuing the program. Mayor Hanna suggested it was time to change the City's approach on youth services and have counselors back on the street again. Councilman Freeland asked if this would have a budgetary impact. After discussion with Mr. Mateer, it was agreed that there would be no budgetary impact, but Mr. Mateer did agree that the direction of the program could be changed. No charges were made in this program.

Special Services

Mayor Hanna suggested that a sum of \$150,000 be set aside in a special block buster fund. This would be to assist those people that are in danger of going needy due to the federal government's cut-off of services in its new budget. He asked that a non-profit association be set up and incorporated to administer the fund so that they might set up a service enterprise to allow people to work and be supplemented with food and housing only if they are willing to work on an emergency basis. Councilman Tyner agreed this was a good idea. Councilman Abrams disagreed and said at this time it is necessary to deal in generalities because there is no documentation handle or knowledge of real cases in

Special Services con't

Rockville. He suggested such a program may be premature since the effect of the cuts may not reach Rockville until the following fiscal year. He would never want to see an experimental program's operation turned over to outsiders to run and it would seem that the City is creating a program in search of a problem. Councilman Tyner suggested that the City follow up on this idea combined with information forthcoming from Rev. Kaseman about the needy in the City. Councilman Freeland disagreed and said the idea is to get government out of these areas and until such time that the City understands what is needed, he cannot support such a program. He feels if there is a need government will meet that need. Mayor Hanna asked that this be placed on the Wish List for further consideration.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM

Code Enforcement

Mayor Hanna asked the status of municipal infractions. Mr. Radauskas said there are problems at this time because of lack of enforcement in the State Attorney's office. Councilman Abrams suggested the City look into the possibility of funding a position in the States Attorney's office that would prosecute the cases. Mr. Radauskas said 43 tickets were issued and 17 were abated. Mayor Hanna said he would explore the possibility with Mr. Sonner, the States Attorney and see if there might be an opportunity to deputize one of the City's Attorneys to handle the prosecution. There were no changes made in the program.

Housing Code

The Council made no changes.

Building Construction Code

The Council made no changes. Mayor Hanna asked if the fees were correct. Mr. Radauskas suggested they be raised a little.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council in work session, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 a.m. to convene again in work session on Saturday, May 16, 1981, at 8:30 a.m.